

Appl. No.: 10/532,182

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) Multiple level type electric connector characterized by being an electric connector provided with a plurality of levels of rows of electric contacts aligned on a same surface, stacked in a direction perpendicular to the aforementioned surfaces,

each electric contact row containing electric contacts for signals and electric contacts for grounding,

each electric contact for signals contained in each electric contact row having an end located on a first plane that differs for each level, and a leg portion extending downwards from said first plane and leading to a same second plane,

each electric contact for grounding contained in each electric contact row having an end located on a first plane,

wherein the electric connector further comprises a shield portion connected to the aforementioned electric contacts for grounding of each at least the upper level and a same grounding line on a second plane, and wherein the shield portion at least partially covers at least some of the leg portions of the aforementioned electric contacts for signals.

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2. (Previously presented) A multiple level type electric connector recited in Claim 1, characterized in that the aforementioned electric contact row with a plurality of levels has two levels.
3. (Previously presented) A multiple level type electric connector recited in Claim 1, characterized in that the aforementioned shield portion does not cover the leg portions of the electric contacts for signals of the lowest level.
4. (Previously presented) A multiple level type electric connector recited in Claim 1, characterized in that the aforementioned shield portion is located above the leg portions of the electric contacts for signals of the lowest level.
5. (Previously presented) A multiple level type electric connector recited in Claim 1, characterized in that the shape and material of the aforementioned shield portion are determined so that the impedance of each of the electric contacts for signals are substantially the same.
6. (Previously presented) A multiple level type electric connector recited in Claim 1, characterized in that the electric contact rows in each of the aforementioned levels are such that an electric contact for grounding is provided for each N (N being an integer greater than or equal to 1) successive electric contacts for signals.
7. (Previously presented) A multiple level type electric connector recited in Claim 1, provided with a housing capable of housing the aforementioned electric contact row.

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8. (Previously presented) A multiple level type electric connector recited in Claim 1, that is mountable on an electronic circuit board.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (New) An electrical connector comprising:

a housing; and

electrically conductive members comprising a plurality of signal contacts and ground contacts connected to the housing and a shield portion, wherein the signal and ground contacts have first ends arranged in at least two rows in the housing and second ends at a connection side of the connector, wherein the shield portion is connected to at least one of the ground contacts, wherein a first set of the signal contacts comprise legs extending to the second ends of the signal contacts, wherein the shield portion covers the legs of the first set of the signal contacts, and wherein the shield portion comprises at least one leg with a connection end at the connection side of the connector.